

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-04 SS-15 SSO-00 /033 R

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O P 012014Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NATO MARR

SUBJECT: EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON DPQ DELAY

1. WASHINGTON POST NOVEMBER 1 CARRIES EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ALLEGING DPQ BEING DELAYED BECAUSE OF FEUD BETWEEN SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE.

2. EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE FOLLOW:

"THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WEEKS AGO APPROVED AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) LISTING REVISED NAVAL AND AIR DEPLOYMENTS PLUS FORCE CHANGES FOR ANNUAL MANEUVERS, ALL ROUTINE MATTERS. BUT KISSINGER, WEARING HIS SECOND HAT AS THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, HAS VOICED DISPLEASURE OVER THESE PROPOSALS AND REFUSED TO PASS THEM ALONG TO MR. FORD..."

TO IRRITATED PENTAGON OFFICIALS, DR. KISSINGER IS MERELY PLAYING GAMES ("HENRY'S TORTURE TREATMENT," SAYS ONE) WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DR. SCHLESINGER AND NEVER WILL CARRY A FIGHT OVER HUMDRUM

MILITARY MATTERS TO THE PRESIDENT. NOT SO, SAY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. KISSINGER IS OUTRAGED AT BEING OUTFLANKED BY SCHLESINGER ON QUESTIONS DEEPLY IMPORTANT TO OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES AND WILL ASK THE PRESIDENT TO OVERRULE THE PENTAGON WITH EVERY HOPE OF SUCCESS.

THE DEPLOYMENTS, CONTAINED IN U.S. ANSWERS TO DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONS (DPQ) ANNUALLY SENT FROM BRUSSELS TO ALL NATO MEMBERS, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAVAL: TWO U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS NOW ON STATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WILL BE REDUCED TO ONE AND ONE-THIRD - THE SECOND CARRIER SPENDING TWO-THIRDS OF THE YEAR IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OFF NORWAY (AN ARRANGEMENT THAT CRITICS OUTSIDE THE PENTAGON CONTEND AMOUNTS TO ONE CARRIER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN).

AIR: THE OLD F-4 AIRCRAFT PERFORMING BOTH ATTACK AND DEFENSE FUNCTIONS WILL BE REPLACED BY F-111'S AND F-16'S, A REDUCTION IN NUMBERS BUT IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY.

MANEUVERS: MAKEUP OF U.S. GROUND TROOPS WILL BE CHANGED TO PROVIDE GREATER "MOBILITY" IN NATO'S ANNUAL REFORGER MANEUVERS.

NONE OF THIS SEEMS EARTH-SHATTERING ON ITS FACE, AND THE PENTAGON AGREES. BUT KISSINGER CLAIMS IT DIMINISHES THE U.S. ROLE IN EUROPE, FRIGHTENING THE EUROPEANS AND POSSIBLY IMPELLING THEM TOWARD GREATER CONCESSIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS. DEPLOYMENT PLANS, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY, REVEAL SCHLESINGER'S INSENSITIVITY TO WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY IN CUTTING DOWN REFORGER MANEUVERS.

NONSENSE, SAYS THE PENTAGON, WHICH DENIES WITH SPECIAL VEHEMENCE THAT REFORGER IS BEING DOWNGRADED. SCHLESINGER COLLABORATED WITH WEST GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER GEORGE LEBER ON DPQ AND CONFERRED WITH THE BRITISH AS WELL. THUS, THE PENTAGON SUSPECTS KISSINGER OF TAKING A HARD-LINE POLICY ON ONE ISSUE TO COUNTER SCHLESINGER'S TOUGH STAND ON OTHER ISSUES.

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FROM ALL THIS CONFUSION, THE FOLLOWING IS INDISPUTABLE:

THE PENTAGON NORMALLY WOULD COORDINATE DPQ ANSWERS WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC) STAFF, BUT THE NSC DIRECTOR HAPPENS TO BE THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ENGAGED IN MONUMENTAL STRUGGLE WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. SO, SCHLESINGER SIDE-STEPPED KISSINGER UNTIL HE SENT HIS FINISHED PRODUCT

OVER TO THE NSC. KISSINGER, ANGRY WITH SCHLESINGER (AND WITH LEBER AS WELL) FOR NOT CONSULTING HIM, IS USING HIS AUTHORITY AS NSC DIRECTOR TO HOLD UP THE DPQ ANSWERS."

3. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS HAS SAID THAT (A) STORY IS A TOTAL MISREPRESENTATION; (B) THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT FROM MANY SOURCES; AND (C) AS THE SUBJECT INVOLVES THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENTS, THE PRESIDENT HAS ORDERED AN NSC MEETING ON THE SUBJECT AND IS HOLDING IN ABEYANCE ANY DECISIONS UNTIL THIS MEETING CAN BE HELD.

4. ABOVE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD REFER ALL QUESTIONS TO WASHINGTON.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLIANCE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE259557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HA HOLMES/LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0471
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751184/aaaacxrt.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON DPQ DELAY
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, NATO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006